



REPRESENTING
ALEX SINK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE OF FLORIDA

September 16, 2010

To All My Division Directors and Staff:

It is with mixed feelings that I announce my retirement from the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) to pursue a position with the private sector. After two years of service with the Department, I am very grateful for the many courtesies extended to me by Jim Cassady, Tammy Teston, and their respective staffs. There is no way I can express all that is in my heart at this moment, or to thank all who deserve to be recognized. I think you know who you are. When I arrived at DFS, I had so much to learn. I thank all of you that had the courage to teach me, and the patience to wait for me to finally "get it".

Over the years I've worked with some of the best managers and colleagues that a man could ever wish for. And while it's difficult to name everyone individually, I would like to say a special thank you to my boss, Alex Sink, a consummate professional, beyond reproach, who had faith in me to give me a chance, and who has supported me in every way.

It has been a great opportunity to have worked together with people that I deeply admire, and to make what little contribution I could to the Department and our State. Over the past two years, many things have improved. Together, we tackled numerous issues head on, confronted profound budget and staff reductions and, despite it all, made significant accomplishments including; three bureaus receiving first time accreditation and one being reaccredited, starting the Worker's Compensation lien process, SFM winning the IACP's August Vollmer Award for Excellence in Forensic Science, and DIF making a 25% increase in operational performance. The managers and staff within the Department are the people who made the most of the situation and who were able to make improvements in an environment of "do more with less". I am honored to have been a part of this process and to recognize the great commitment of those who have chosen public service as their primary career.

I have found much to admire in all with whom I have served. Not every manager is so fortunate. I pushed my managers hard, and they responded admirably. In this regard, I want to thank all my great management team: Tanner Holloman, John Askins, Julius Halas, Jack Kelley, Jeff Merritt, Andrew Sabolic, and John Corbett. I thank them for their cooperation and for every effort they made to make my job easier. I would also like to send a special word of thanks to my office staff: Lisa Allen, Jennifer Hirst, Cyndi Godbey, and Diane Piroth, who took care of me day in and day out.

Those of you in public service, especially those who have chosen the profession of law enforcement and fire service, are bound together for a lifetime - not by a common race, not by a common gender, and not by a common denomination. We are joined by our core values. They are expressed in different ways, but they are essentially the same. They are "integrity first, "honor, respect, and devotion to duty;" - "honor, courage, and commitment" and "excellence in all we do;". The philosophy behind all of these values is the same: dedicated and honorable service to protect and defend the citizens of Florida.

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I have no doubt that my Divisions and their staff will carry on quite well after my retirement. After all, when you take your hand out of a bucket of water, the hole does not long remain. Many have contributed far more to the Department than I have. I hope that something will endure besides two years of wonderful memories and some great mementos added to my wall. I fancy that at one time I was a fair and honest manager, but I recall George Carlin's remark that "the older you get, the better you realize you were." At heart I have tried to be a teacher and a strategist. In these two professions I hope I was able to pass along some of the lessons I have learned over a 35 year career and also to make a small contribution to the Department's overall goals and strategy. I like to think that my best contribution was to our people. It would please me greatly if I had even a small hand in your success.

My most important comments on this occasion are for the most important people in my life, my family. To my wonderful wife and best friend, Marie-Line, the source of my greatest happiness: our children and our continuing life together. I will never be able to adequately express how much her love, support, sacrifice, and wise counsel has meant to me.

I close with one final thought - We weave the fabric of our lives slowly and draw from many strands - most importantly of family, but also of friends, experiences, accomplishments, disappointments, hopes for the future, and shared and personal memories. Some of the men and women whose respect I most cherish have woven their lives from these same threads of service, self-sacrifice, and honor. If you take public service seriously, you become a part of it, and it becomes part of you. I did so without reservation, and the threads of commitment, sacrifice, and dedication in my own life are indelible.

I have received far more from the Department than I could ever have put into it. I am a better, happier, wiser, and healthier man because of my service. This transition occurs with a measure of surprise at the rapid passing of the years, but without regrets or second thoughts. I worked hard, I did my duty as best I knew how, and I am as proud of my service with the Department as anything in my life.

Thank you all for all of your support and I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Warmest regards,

Brian